

SB 112 Proponent Testimony

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (OAPFF), I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Childhood Safety Act, designated as Senate Bill 112 (S.B. 112). As an organization dedicated to fire safety and the protection of lives and property, we believe that this legislation plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of Ohio's school buildings, specifically by implementing regular inspections and testing of protective door assemblies.

The Ohio Childhood Safety Act focuses on fire safety measures in school buildings, an area of utmost importance when it comes to protecting the lives of our students, educators, and staff. By enacting this legislation, Ohio will take a proactive approach to prevent and mitigate the risks associated with fire incidents in educational facilities. Allow me to highlight the key reasons why the Fire Marshal's Office fully supports this crucial legislation:

1. **Compliance with NFPA Standards:** The Ohio Childhood Safety Act mandates that protective door assemblies in school buildings meet the standards outlined in the 2015 NFPA 101 & NFPA 80. This provision ensures that fire safety measures are in place to protect occupants and facilitate safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.
2. **Regular Inspections and Testing:** The bill establishes a requirement for annual inspections and testing of protective door assemblies by qualified inspectors. These inspections are crucial in identifying any potential issues or deficiencies that may compromise the effectiveness of these safety components. By detecting and addressing these issues promptly, we can enhance the overall fire safety of Ohio's school buildings.
3. **Accountability and Records Maintenance:** School governing authorities are tasked with maintaining records that verify the completion of annual inspections. This documentation promotes accountability and ensures that necessary safety measures are being taken to protect students, educators, and staff.
4. **Collaboration and Expertise:** The Ohio Childhood Safety Act encourages collaboration between the Fire Marshal's Office, the board of building standards, and the authority having jurisdiction. This collaborative effort allows for the exchange of expertise and resources, which is essential in implementing effective fire safety practices in school buildings.

The OAPFF views the Ohio Childhood Safety Act as a critical step in prioritizing the fire safety of our students, educators, and staff. By enacting this legislation, Ohio will demonstrate its

commitment to providing safe learning environments that mitigate the risks associated with fire incidents.

We urge you to support and advance the Ohio Childhood Safety Act, recognizing the paramount importance of fire safety in our school buildings. By approving this legislation, Ohio will establish itself as a leader in proactive fire safety measures and set a standard for other states to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Government Affairs